

Appl. No. 10/707,515  
Amdt. dated January 26, 2006  
Reply to Office action of November 23, 2005

**In The Claims:**

Please amend claims 1 and 9, and cancel claims 6-8 without prejudice.

- 5 1. (Currently Amended) A locking mechanism for an external optical disk drive with a cover and an upper housing, comprising:
- an elastic member, having [two] a first and a second connecting ends;
  - a rotary shaft, integrally formed with the cover and having a hole adapted to receive [one of] the first connecting end[s] and a connecting portion;
  - a locking member, positioned on the upper housing; and
  - 10 a mounting member, positioned on the upper housing and adapted to fasten the second[other one of the] connecting end[s] and receive the connecting portion, wherein the rotary shaft is pivotally coupled to the mounting member by the connecting portion, [.]  
wherein when the cover is closed, the first connecting end of the elastic member is directed to the connecting portion of the rotary shaft.
- 15 2. (Original) The locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic member is of metallic and can be a torsion spring.
3. (Original) The locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elastic member is of plastic and can be a torsion spring.
4. (Original) The locking mechanism as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a gear  
20 rack that is integrally formed with the rotary shaft of the cover.
5. (Original) The locking mechanism as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a spur gear that is positioned on the mounting member and is adapted to engage with the gear rack.
6. (Canceled)
- 25 7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) An external optical disk drive, comprising:
- a lower housing;

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an upper housing, positioned at the lower housing;  
a locking member, positioned on the upper housing;  
an elastic member, having ~~[two]~~a first and a second connecting ends;  
a cover, having a rotary shaft and a gear rack, ~~[and]~~wherein the rotary shaft has a  
5 connecting portion and [ having] a hole to be adapted to receive [one of] the first  
connecting end[s] of the elastic member;

a mounting member, positioned on the upper housing and adapted to fasten the  
[other one of the]second connecting end[s] and receive the connecting portion, wherein  
the rotary shaft is pivotally coupled to the mounting member by the connecting portion;  
10 and

a spur gear, positioned at the mounting member;  
wherein the cover is opened or closed, the spur gear will engage with the gear rack  
of the cover[.],

wherein when the cover is closed, the first connecting end of the elastic member is  
15 directed to the connecting portion of the rotary shaft.

10. (Original) The external optical disk drive as claimed in claim 9, wherein the  
elastic member is of metallic material and can be a torsion spring.

11. (Original) The external optical disk drive as claimed in claim 9, wherein the  
elastic member is of plastic and can be a torsion spring.

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